

FORM B - BUILDING

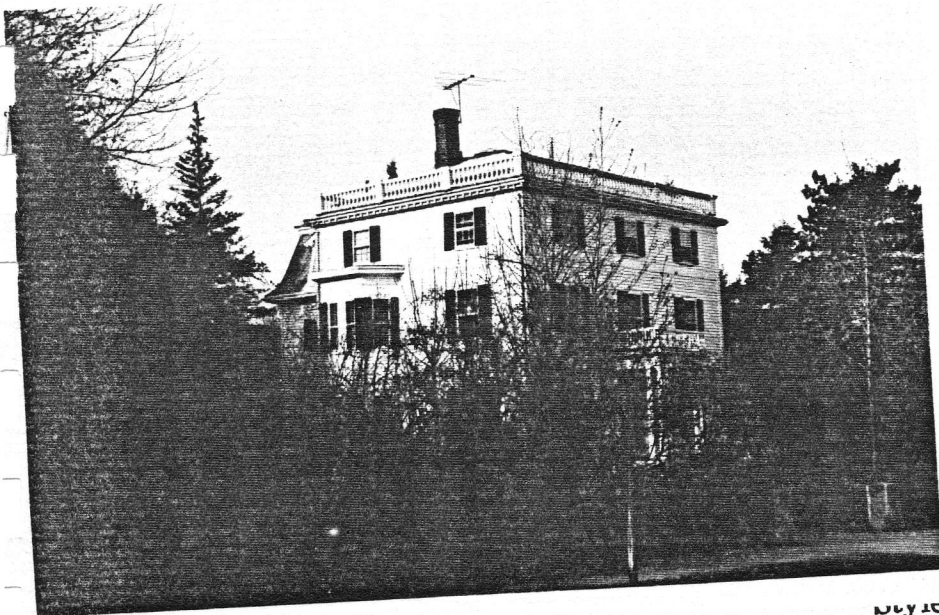
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, State House, Boston

In Area no.

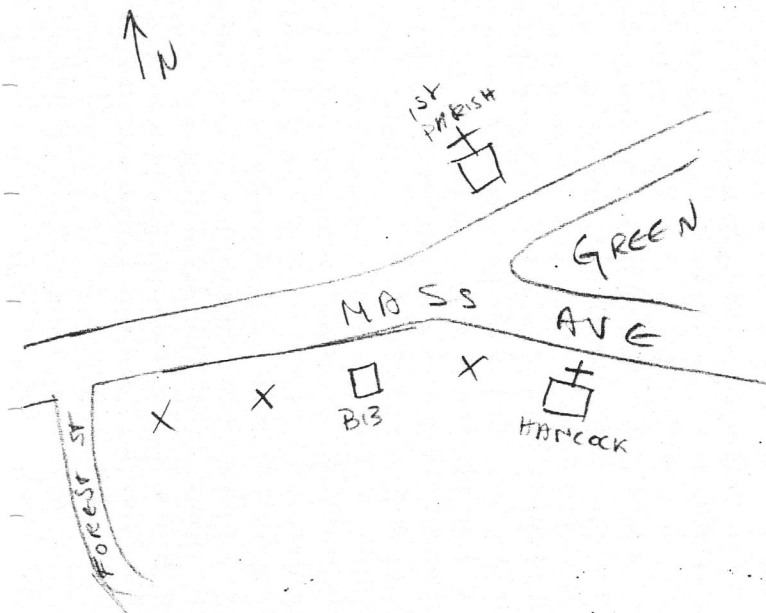
B

Form no.

64



4. Map. Draw sketch of building location in relation to nearest cross streets and other buildings. Indicate north.



DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE
USGS Quadrant

MHC Photo no.

Lexington

SS 1948 Mass Ave

Blinn-Greeley House

at use Residence

at owner Bryant, Ellen

option:

1870's (mansard)

ce

Style Mansard- Colonial Revival

Architect altered by Wm Roger Greeley

Exterior wall fabric White Clapboard

Outbuildings (describe) Garage
Hip Roof With Balustrade. Granite Foundation. 2 1/2 Stories. Rear r.
Other features Mansard. Twin double bays-east
west Terrace With Turned Posts on east-2
Granite posts at each driveway entrance-port
With Balustrade at top

Altered Colonial Rev. Date C1925

Moved Date

5. Lot size:

Less than one acre X Over one acre

Approximate frontage 100'

Approximate distance of building from street

25'

6. Recorded by Ruth Beebe

Organization Lex Hist. Com.

Date August 18, 1975

(over)

7. Original owner (if known) _____

Original use _____

Subsequent uses (if any) and dates _____

8. Themes (check as many as applicable)

Aboriginal	_____	Conservation	_____	Recreation	_____
Agricultural	_____	Education	_____	Religion	_____
Architectural	_____	Exploration/	_____	Science/	_____
The Arts	_____	settlement	_____	invention	_____
Commerce	_____	Industry	_____	Social/	_____
Communication	_____	Military	_____	Humanitarian	_____
Community development	_____	Political	_____	Transportation	_____

9. Historical Significance (include explanation of themes checked above)

Portico supported by clustered Doric columns
Side & top lights on door
4 granite steps

Photograph from Lexington Library files shows this house with original mansard roof. c. 1880
Same photograph appears in 1899 Lexington & Bedford Directory.

10. Bibliography and/or references (such as local histories, deeds, assessor's records, early maps, etc.)

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community:

Lexington

Form No:

64

Property Name: 1948 Massachusetts Ave.

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

This house is not on the 1853 map. Originally built as a Mansard, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and in the early 1900s was lived in by Richard D. Blinn and his family. On the 1889 map it is listed in the name of Mrs. R.D. Blinn.

Mr. Blinn was a railroad executive and at one time was the president of the Lexington and West Cambridge Railroad. He seems to have departed Lexington in the late 1800s and he died in 1906 in Chicago. However, his family stayed on in the house and his wife and two unmarried daughters ran this house as a boardinghouse for many years. Mr. Blinn had acquired considerable property in the area behind his home on what is now Belfry Terrace and Forest Street, and other isolated parcels of land. He organized the Belfry Hill Stock Farm with the intention of developing his land with house lots and houses. He was not successful.

Architect William Roger Greeley bought the house in 1925 and altered the mansard roof into its present configuration.

S. Lawrence Whipple, 1984

Staple to Inventory form at bottom

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

Town
LEXINGTON

Property Address
1948 MASS. AVE.

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Area(s) Form No.

B

64

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

From 1925 to his death in 1966 this was the home of prominent and lifelong Lexington resident William Roger Greeley. Greeley was a prominent architect, conservationist and planner as well as a distinguished Unitarian layman. Greeley was born in Lexington in 1881 and lived here for his entire life except for the year he served as architect of Camp Miles Standish at the beginning of World War II. He graduated with a B.S. in architecture from M.I.T. in 1902 and received his master's degree the following year. Years later he received an honorary Doctor's degree from Boston University, where he served as a trustee.

Greeley worked in the office of Boston architect R. Clipston Sturgis from 1903 to 1913 during which time he supervised the construction of the marble wing additions to the Massachusetts State House. The rest of his career was spent with the firm of Kilham, Hopkins, Greeley and Brodie, designing residences, city and town halls, libraries, schools and churches. He was a president of the Boston Architectural Club, the Boston Society of Architects, the Mass. Federation of Planning Boards, the New England Town Planning Association, the Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations and the Boston Building Congress. Among the Lexington buildings designed by him are the Depot (renovations), Town Hall and office buildings, an addition to the Cary Library, several houses including the one he built for his family at 38 Somerset Road, Franklin School and the additions or renovations of Adams, Franklin, Hancock, Munroe, and Parker Schools.

W.R. Greeley was also involved in various town affairs. He was an active member of the Town Meeting for 62 years, served on the Planning Board, was president of the Lexington Historical Society and moderator of his church, the First Parish in Lexington.

In 1967 the property was acquired by Ellen Bryant, who still owns it today.

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Hudson, Charles. *History of the Town of Lexington*. Cambridge: The Riverside Press Co., 1913, vol. 2, p. 251.
Lexington Minute-Man, October 13, 1966.
Middlesex County Register of Deeds, Cambridge, Mass.

Supplement prepared by:
Lisa Mausolf
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